हमारा फैस्टीवल जनवरी में होता था तो क्रिसमस और न्यू ईयर उसके साथ क्लैश करते थे। इन दोनों कारणों के कारण हमारे यहां फिल्म की प्रविष्टियां, फिल्म की ऐंटरीज़ कम आती थीं। बहुत जगह फिल्म फैस्टीवल्स में यह होता है कि जो प्रोड्यूसर्स हैं वे फिल्म दूसरी जगह भेज देते हैं, वे हमारे यहां नहीं भेजते। ये प्रोड्यूसर्स उन फिल्म महोत्सवों में ज्यादा फिल्में भेज देते थे। इसलिए हमारे यहां ऐंटरीज़ कम होती थीं और उतने तर की भी नहीं होती थीं। खास तौर पर डायरेटोरेट ऑफ फिल्म फैस्टीवल्स से हमें प्रस्ताव आया कि हमने, जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संस्था फिल्म महोत्सव बनाती है, उनसे भी बात कर ली है और हम चाहेंगे कि मंत्रालय इसकी स्वीकृति दे कि जनवरी की बजाय ये अक्तूबर में किया जाए ताकि हमारे यहां प्रविष्टियां ज्यादा आएं। बहुत सोचा समझा फैसला उन सबसे बात करने के बाद किया गया है और बहुत अच्छे फिल्म महोत्सवों से हमारे फिल्म फैस्टीवल्स की डैट्स क्लैश न करें, इसलिए यह फैसला लिया गया कि हम जनवरी के बजाए इसको अक्तूबर में करें।

Welfare of Senior Citizens

*105. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has more than 75 million of people who are more than 60 years of age or are senior citizens;

(b) if so, the break-up of the senior citizen, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government are taking or propose to take for the welfare of the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Welfare of Senior Citizens

(a) The number of persons aged 60 years and above as per the Census of India 2001 is not available. However, as per the 1991 Census, the population of persons aged 60 years and above is 56.68 million.

(b) The state-wise break-up of the senior citizens as on date is not available. However, as per the Census of India 1991 the state-wise break up is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) For the Welfare of the senior citizens financial assistance as grant-in-aid is given through various programmes/schemes namely:

(i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

(ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons.

(iii) Old Age Pension Scheme.

Apart from the above financial assistance there are following welfare schemes by the Government for older persons:—

(i) Government have recently approved a scheme called "ANNAPURNA Scheme" under which 10 Kgs of food grains would be provided to such destitute elderly every month who are not in receipt of old age pension scheme.

(ii) On the request of this Ministry, Chief Justice of India advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the Country to ensure expeditious disposal of Court Cases involving Older Persons.

(iii) Union Health Ministry has issued instructions to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for provision of separate queues for older persons in hospitals at all stages.

(iv) At the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry, a Telephone helpline for older persons has been started by an NGO called Agewell Foundation. This helpline is functional from April, 1999.

(v) The Department of Telecommunications has already announced the Government decision to give telephone connections to senior citizens aged 65 years and above on priority.

(vi) National Institute of Social Defence has started a 3 months course for home care of elderly disabled persons in August, 1999. This course will help to prepare a cadre of Geriatric

Animators to render comprehensive care to the aged in their homes and in the community.

(vii) Aadhar has been set up to function as Secretariat of National Council for Older Persons (NCOP). The major activities of Aadhar include receiving and taking follow up action on representations, complaints and grievances of older persons.

Statement-I

Population 60 years and above for India, States and Union Territories as per the 1991 Census

	India/State/UT	Population 60 years and above
	India*	5,66,81,640
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45,10,929
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	37,560
3.	Assam	11,94,460
4.	Bihar	54,08,629
5.	Goa	82,507
6.	Gujarat	26,37,803
7.	Haryana	12,67,741
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4,20,003
9.	Karnataka	31,42,708
10.	Kerala	25,67,365
11.	Madhya Pradesh	43,89,202
12.	Maharashtra	55,10,131
13.	Manipur	1,11,105
14.	Meghalaya	78,742
15.	Mizoram	33,186

	India/State/UT	Population 60 years and above
16.	Nagaland	63,777
17.	Orissa	22,80,956
18.	Punjab	15,90,059
19.	Rajasthan	27,67,870
20.	Sikkim	18,508
21.	Tamil Nadu	41,61,822
22.	Tripura	1,93,295
23.	Uttar Pradesh	95,46,943
24.	West Bengal	41,15,573
25.	A & N Islands	9,546
26.	Chandigarh	28,351
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5,943
28.	Daman & Diu	6,327
29.	Delhi	4,39,520
30.	Lakshadweep	2,639
31.	Pondicherry	58,440

*Excludes Jammu & Kashmir where the 1991 Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions prevailing there then.

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Sir, I would like to know the reasons behind the Ministry's failure to compile the statistics regarding senior citizens even after six months of the completion of Census 2001. I shall be grateful if the hon. Minister gives me, at least, the latest rough details Statewise about senior citizens. Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the Government has kept the National Senior Citizens Fund in abeyance.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, unfortunately, this Ministry does not do the census. The Registrar General of Census of India does it and they give us their report only the next year. We have the report only of the 1991 Census, according to which the population of 60 years and above is 5,66,81,640. However, on a very, very rough

guess, it would be about 12% of whatever population the census shows to be.

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: This is my second supplementary. According to the directory compiled by the Centre for the Welfare of the Aged, we have got only 700 old age homes in the country. In these 700 old age homes, we can accommodate only 30,000 people. I would submit that we need, at least, two crores of old age homes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the Ministry is doing in this regard, whether any effort has been made and whether the help of State Governments, NGOs, entrepreneurs and others has been sought for setting up of more old-age homes. Finally, how many applications from Andhra Pradesh have been received from senior citizens since its inception and what action has been contemplated in regard to those applications?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the setting up of more old-age homes is directly dependent on the NGOs that apply for this. We have, in fact, asked the State Governments to make this a Panchayat scheme so that we can give old-age homes to Panchayats and the State Governments or the Panchayats themselves can run them. Unfortunately, the States have not replied to this. So, we continue to make it an NGO scheme. And, as I said, a number of NGOs have applied. After they have been inspected and after we find that they are capable of running these places, then only the money is given. The NGOs scheme is for Rs. 15 lakhs and it goes to 30 people old-age homes. We have tried to change this. In fact, we have the architectural designs also made in which you can have it per village for 30 people for two to two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. We have sent this out to as many NGOs as possible and we have not received it. In fact, we have given to the people in the North-East because it would be apt to have these homes there. But we haven't really received any response.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति, जी मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, इससे दो बातें सामने आई हैं। एक तो राज्य सरकारों की भूमिका बहुत ही दयनीय स्थिति में है। मैं मंत्री जी से स्पष्ट रूप से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि राज्य सरकारें आखिर इस प्रश्न पर सहयोग करने के लिए तैयार क्यों नहीं है? वृद्ध आश्रमों की दुर्दशा के बारे में क्या मंत्री जी को कोई जानकारी है? हमारे देश में जो वृद्ध

आश्रम हैं, चाहे वे महानगरों में ही क्यों न हो, वे सभी दुर्दशाग्रस्त हैं। सरकारी अनुदान के सहारे या स्वैच्छिक संगठनों के सहारे उनको चलाया जा रहा है और यह धन इतना कम है कि उससे कुछ भी नहीं हो पा रहा है। महोदय, इसीलिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस पर टिप्पणी भी की है। माननीय मंत्री जी की जानकारी में यह बात अवश्य होनी चाहिए। क्या मंत्री जी वृद्ध आश्रमों की दुर्दशा की स्थिति और राज्य सरकारों की भूमिका पर स्पष्ट प्रकाश डालना पसंद करेंगी?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, some of the homes are in a bad condition; some of them are in a good condition. I don't think we can generalise them. The Ministry gives a large amount of money for the maintenance of these homes. We are maintaining, at the moment, 322 old-age homes, 432 day-care centres and 60 mobile medicare units. We have built, this year, 82 new ones. Now, many of them, most of the institutions, tend to run down after a little bit. I think the same thing applies here. People start with great hopes; the NGOs fight with each other; the NGOs split; maybe, they disband themselves; maybe, they believe that they cannot keep pace with the rise in expenses. On our part, we help them with as much money as we can; and we are extremely sympathetic to this sight. This is not the only thing that we do. There are help-lines for the NGOs. The High Courts have now agreed to take cases of the old, before they take any others. There is OASS, which is on the anvil, which is with the Group of Ministers. So, there are other things, apart from old-age homes. I think, as the previous hon. Members said, we should make provision for two crore old-age people or two crore old-age homes...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति जी, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर बिल्कुल भी नहीं मिल रहा है। मैंने स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहा है कि राज्य सरकारों से कहां असहयोग मिल रहा है? क्या आपने राज्य सरकारों की कोई भूमिका निर्धारित की है? यदि की है तो वह भूमिका क्या है? मै यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि आखिर इन वृद्धाश्रमों की दुर्दशा क्यों है?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, my answer to this is, we don't give old-age homes to the State Governments; we give it to the NGOs. That is my specific answer. So, where does it come for the State Government to have not taken part in this? As I explained before, we have got a scheme of assistance to the Panchayati Raj institutions, which have not applied as yet. The State Government

does not come into the picture at all. My Ministry's mandate is to give it to the Panchayati Raj institutions directly, or, to the NGOs; not to the State Governments.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह आंकड़ों की दृष्टि से बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है लेकिन क्रियान्वयन की दृष्टि से अनुपयुक्त है। अनुपयुक्त इसलिए कह रहा हूं क्योंकि इन्होंने कहा है कि फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस के अलावा जो और कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, उन कदमों का जिक्र भी किया है जैसे मिसाल के तौर पर इसी मिनिस्ट्री की पहल पर हैल्थ मिनिस्ट्री ने ये गाइडलाइन्स दी हैं कि हॉस्पिटल में ओल्ड ऐज लोगों के लिए अलग से क्यू बनेगी। सभी माननीय सदस्य यहां मौजूद हैं और प्राय: कोई न कोई कभी न कभी अस्पताल जाता रहता है। किसी भी माननीय सदस्य ने ओल्ड ऐज पर्सन्स के लिए किसी अस्पताल में अलग से क्यू होने की व्यवस्था नहीं देखी है। क्या इस मंत्रालय की तरफ से जो सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए जाने संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश दिए जा रहे हैं उनका पालन हो रहा है या नहीं, क्या इसकी मोनिटरिंग की व्यवस्था है?

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जो ओल्ड ऐज पर्सन्स की अलग-अलग राज्यों में संख्या है, उस जनसंख्या को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए क्या फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस दी जाएगी या फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस दिए जाने के लिए कोई और नॉर्म्स हैं, जैसे मध्य प्रदेश पूरे देश में ओल्ड ऐज पर्सन्स की संख्या के आधार पर पांचवे नम्बर पर है तो क्या उस अनुपात में मध्य प्रदेश को फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस दी जा रही है? यदि नहीं दी जा रही है तो कब तक दी जाएगी और कितनी दी जाएगी?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the first question is: Do we monitor the queues outside hospitals? While the Ministry of Health has issued instructions that all hospitals have to have a separate queue for older people, it is quite true that the Ministry does not monitor it directly. However, for the first time, we have set up something called *Aadhar* which is run by the Age-Well Foundation, under the National Committee for Older Persons, and they do monitor it. I don't think they have monitored every hospital in India because that is not physically possible. But, every time they go to the major hospitals like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and others, if they see that separate queue is not there for old people, or, there is not enough importance given to it, they do complain immediately and it is rectified for the time being. As you know, in India, things start and then stop, and then start and then stop. So, it goes on like that.

The second question is specifically about Madhya Pradesh or other States. We can only give as much as an NGO asks for. If the NGOs of Madhya Pradesh come forward and they are proven to be honest and competent, we would be happy to give it to them.

डा॰ वाई॰ लक्ष्मी प्रसादः सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि पंचायत के स्तर पर वृद्धाश्रम निर्माण करने की जो योजनायें राज्यों को दी गई हैं उनके बारे में राज्यों से कोई रिस्पांस नहीं आया है। मैं केवल यही जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या किसी भी राज्य से रिस्पांस नहीं आया है, खासकर आंध्र प्रदेश से रिस्पांस आया है या नहीं?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: At the moment, nobody has applied from the Panchayati Raj institutions. Perhaps, if the States could activate the institutions and ask them to apply to us, we would be happy to help them.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, with the transition from a joint family system to a nuclear family system, the old-age homes have become very necessary and very essential now. There are so many religious institutions which have now started old-age homes. Would the Government of India give any financial assistance to the religious institutions who set up these old-age homes?

My second question is: What are the norms to be followed in getting financial assistance by the NGOs for starting old-age homes?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Religious institutions are also regarded as NGOs. In fact, we have given money on the request of the Shankaracharya of Kanchi, who wanted to start something for the old-aged people. We would be very happy to give assistance, if they apply as NGOs. That means, they have to be under a registered Trust, which has a proven record of having done some community work.

We have, for the first time, an Inspectorate, comprising retired army officers, which inspects every institution that applies for money so that we don't make the same mistakes that we have been doing for years; i.e., just handing out the money and regretting it later. If they have a proven record of having done some community work, then we would be happy to give money to any registered institution.

श्री सतीश प्रधान: सभापति जी। जब महाराष्ट्र में शिवसेना और भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार थी तो वहां पर वृद्ध-सदन सरकार की तरफ से शुरू किए गए थे। अभी वहां जो सरकार है, वह सरकार पैसा न होने का कारण बताकर, इन वृद्ध-सदनों को बंद करना चाहती है। मैं आदरणीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो वृद्ध-सदन आलरेडी शुरू हैं, वे अच्छे ढंग से चलें, इसके लिए उनको आर्थिक मदद देकर क्या आप उनको चलायेंगी?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, any home that has been started and has been running for some time, which has proven its capacity of serving older people, would certainly be given maintenance money by us.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Thank you.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that she wants the Panchayats to take up old-age homes, and she has no responsibility. That is not the way of doing things when you are talking of a 75-plus million people who are above 60 years. If they don't respond through the State Government, that doesn't mean that you should leave the scheme in vacuum. I want to put a question to the hon. Minister: Would you consider writing directly to the Panchayats about the scheme and the eligible money so that they can take up the scheme for the old-aged people?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: That is a good idea. We can write to the Panchayats. I expect the Members of Parliament to do what I have done. We have given a book of schemes, specifically on old-age, to every Member of Parliament. We have sent them out to every NGO. We have sent them out to the District Magistrates so that they can contact the Panchayats. Every Member of Parliament has received a book containing all these, a-year-and-a-half ago, in which every scheme of the Ministry, along with the forms, are given so that if they so desire, in their own district, they can get the Panchayats apply for these schemes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Can you provide mobile health CARE at the homes, because they can't go to the hospitals?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, we are trying that, and that is why we have positioned 16 mobile medical units as close to

these homes as possible. Going from house to house depends on the NGOs running medical mobile clinics; whether their doctors go from house to house. I am sure they do, but I would say, a larger percentage of people walk a little distance to the Camp.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fall in the Output of Major PSUs

*102 SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Major PSUs output dips" reported in the Statesman, dated the 9th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the overall production growth of PSUs has fallen considerably during the year 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for such a steep fall in production growth of PSUs; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to achieve the target of production growth of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of the PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry has fallen marginally by 0.50% during 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000.

(c) The basic reasons for decline in production are shortage of working capital, paucity of orders, obsolete technology and high cost of production due to many factors including excessive manpower. With regard to PSUs which have registered steep decline, it may be mentioned that MAMC, TCIL, CCI & HEC are sick compaines under reference to BIFR. BIFR has already given orders for winding up of MAMC. Permission for closure of Tangra unit of TCIL has